

New USPS Expedited Mails Picture Bridges

On February 3 the USPS issued its latest Expedited Mail stamps. The \$4.90 Priority Mail stamp pictures the Mackinac Bridge and the \$18.90 Express Mail stamp features the Bixby Creek Bridge.

The “Mighty Mac” Mackinac Bridge (pronounced mack-in-awe) spans the Straits of Mackinac to connect the Upper and Lower peninsulas of Michigan. The bridge was opened in 1957 following decades of struggles, first to embark on the project, then to complete construction. Designed by engineer David B. Steinman, it connects the city of St. Ignace on the north end with the village of Mackinaw City on the south and is the longest suspension bridge between anchorages in the Western hemisphere.

The Bixby Creek Bridge is a reinforced concrete bridge in Big Sur, California, located 120 miles south of San Francisco along California Highway 1.

The open-spandrel arch bridge introduced automobile travel to Big Sur, while also connecting remote coastal towns to each other. It is one of the most photographed features on the West Coast and has frequently been used in automobile commercials. The construction of the bridge began on August 24, 1931. Before



it was opened on November 27, 1932, coastal travel was on rough wagon roads over ridges and valleys, turning a 30-mile trip from Monterey to the Big Sur River valley into a three day round trip.

Both stamps were designed by Carl T. Herrman of North Las Vegas, Nevada, using photographs by artist Dan Cosgrove of Clarendon Hills, Ill.

Both stamps were printed by Avery Dennison using a gravure engraved process. A total of 15 million Express Mail and 40 million Priority Mail stamps were issued in pressure sensitive adhesive panes of 20 stamps each. Plate numbers in the four corners of the panes consist of the letter “V” to identify Avery Dennison as the printer followed by four (4) single digits, one for each print color.

For first day cancellations, the usual rules apply. Send your covers with stamps already affixed to Mackinac Bridge (Priority Mail) Stamp or Bixby Creek Bridge (Express Mail) Stamp, Special Cancellations, PO Box 92282, Washington, DC 20090-2282. You can address the envelopes themselves or enclose an envelope for return of your FDCs under cover. All requests must be postmarked by April 5, 2010.